

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01983 100842Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 OES-07 ERDA-07 /093 W
-----101132Z 110546 /14

R 091530Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0530
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 1983

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SW
SUBJECT: POLL SHOWS CONTINUED SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GAINS AND CENTER
LOSSES

REF: STOCKHOLM 1456

1. THE APRIL POLL OF THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR OPINION
RESEARCH (SIFO) REVEALS A CONTINUING TREND OF INCREASED
SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND DECLINE FOR THE CENTER PARTY
OF PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS RECEIVED THE
SUPPORT OF 49 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED, COMPARED WITH 42.7 PERCENT
IN THE 1976 ELECTIONS, WHILE THE CENTER SLID TO 20.5 PERCENT,
DOWN FROM 24.1 PERCENT AT ELECTION TIME. THE STRENGTHENING OF THE
SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC POSITION INDICATES THAT EXTRAORDINARY ELECTIONS
COULD RESULT IN A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY GOVERNMENT.

2. THE RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT (CENTER, MODERATE
AND LIBERAL PARTIES) AND THE SOCIALIST BLOC (SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND
COMMUNISTS (VPK) REMAINED UNCHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS
MONTH, HOWEVER (REFTEL). THE SOCIALISTS CONTINUE TO LEAD
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IN VOTER APPROVAL BY A MARGIN OF 51.5 PERCENT TO 46.5 PERCENT,
AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ALONE HAVE INCREASED THEIR LEAD OVER THE
GOVERNMENT COALITION (49 PERCENT VS. 46.5 PERCENT). OF PARTICULAR
INTEREST IS THE LOW SUPPORT RECEIVED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK),
WHICH AT 2.5 PERCENT IS THE LOWEST FIGURE FOR THE VPK EVER
MEASURED BY SIFO AND PLACES THE VPK CONSIDERABLY BELOW THEN
PERCENT REQUIRED FOR RIKSDAG REPRESENTATION.

3. RESULTS OF THE POLL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	APRIL 1977	MARCH 1977	DECEMBER 1976	ELECTION 1976
CENTER	20.5 0/0	21.0 0/0	22.0 0/0	24.1 0/0
MODERATE	15.5	15.5	16.0	15.6
LIBERAL	10.5	10.0	12.0	11.1
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS	49.0	47.5	44.0	42.7
(VPK)	2.5	3.5	4.0	4.8
COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY (NOW CALLED "K")	0.5	0.5	---	---

4. COMMENT: SIFO IS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT ITS FIGURES ARE NOT PRECISE AND THAT THE MARGIN OF ERROR IS BETWEEN 1 AND 2 PERCENT, BUT THE POLL IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED ACCURATE AND IS CLOSELY WATCHED IN SWEDEN. THE 49 PERCENT APPROVAL RATING FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IS THE HIGHEST IN AT LEAST 5 YEARS, AND REFLECTS CONTINUED DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, DISARRAY OVER THE NUCLEAR ENERGY ISSUE, AND A GENERAL APPEARANCE OF INEPTITUDE. IN ADDITION, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS APPEAR TO HAVE ATTRACTED SUPPORTERS FROM AMONG THOSE WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY "UNDECIDED," AS WELL AS FROM AMONG THE VPK, ALREADY INJURED BY THE CREATION OF THE COMMUNIST WORKER'S PARTY (K), WHICH RECEIVED ONLY .5 PERCENT SUPPORT. WHILE THESE FIGURES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CHANGE WERE ELECTIONS IMMINENT, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PALME AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE IN ASCENDANCY, THANKS MOSTLY TO IMPATIENCE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COALITION GOVERNMENT.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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